

# Swamp Fox Scene

A FREE monthly newspaper  
for the citizens and visitors to the Swamp Fox City

Volume 3, Issue 12

May 2013

## Citizens elect Davis as Mayor

City officials, employees, citizens and friends gathered in front of Marion City Hall on April 18 for the swearing in of the city's first black Mayor. Long-time Councilmember Bobby Davis was elected on April 9 in an election with former Mayor Rodney Berry. Also re-elected during the voting were Councilmembers Michael Baker (District 6) and Odessa Gregg (District 5). Emerson Hunt was elected to serve District 3. At right, Pat Speth, City Judge, swears in Mayor Davis as his wife Geneva looks on. Below, City Attorney Robert Lee gives the oath of office to Hunt, Gregg and Baker, who are supported by family members. Bottom left, hundreds turn out for the ceremonies.



## Come & enjoy the 21st annual FoxTrot Festival!

It's that time again! Friday & Saturday, May 17-18

*The crowds will once again fill Main Street for a fun day of eating, shopping and more!*

**Friday:** Movie & Fireworks Display, Fox Field; Gates open at 6 p.m.  
Cost is \$2 per person; Concessions provided by MHS Boosters.

**Saturday:** Main Street Parade starts the day's activities at 10 a.m.  
Amusements & rides for Children and Adults, Antique Car & Tractor Show,  
Arts & Crafts, Live Entertainment, Food Court,  
Petting Zoo and more!

Performers from noon-6 p.m.; Main & Godbold Streets Stage;  
& Evening Street Dance, 6-9 p.m.

Call Chuck for details, 843-423-9918.



# CITY NEWS

## Smith is top employee for March

Police Lieutenant Christopher Smith was selected as the City of Marion's March 2013 Employee of the Month.

Lt. Smith has been employed with the City of Marion Police Department since July 2000 and began his career in law enforcement as a patrol officer, answering calls and working traffic. These duties enabled him to learn the Marion community and our citizens.

His knowledge and years of experience continue to assist the department in his current position as an Investigator. When assigned a case, Smith will work it until he gets results for the victim.

"He's always eager to help the younger officers as well as the supervisors, which is evident when they call at 3:00 in the morning," said Marion

Police Jim Gray. Lt. Smith is a lifelong resident of Marion County and has one daughter, McKayla. He enjoys hunting, fishing and trapping, and playing his guitar.

The Mayor and Council recognized Lt. Smith for his work with the Marion Police Department and his dedication to our community at the April City Council Meeting.



## Door of Hope to be host to celebration of National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2

Bishop Michael Blue extends a cordial invitation to all pastors, their congregations, and members of the public, to join in this service at Door of Hope Christian Church 401 Martin Luther King Drive Marion, South Carolina 7 p.m.

Organizing committee members are Bishop Michael Blue, Karen Christmas, Rev. Chip Scruggs, & Morris Ward

For more information, call Karen at 843-229-0260.

## Chamber has another successful 'Shred Day'



Cintas visited Marion just after Tax Day to relieve business owners and individuals of their excess papers. This is the third year Marion Chamber of Commerce members have sponsored the "Shred Day," a way to properly dispose of outdated, but otherwise important, documents. The Chamber thanks those participants who also took the opportunity to give to the group's annual educational programs.

## Mullins Chamber to have Taste of Mullins on May 2

The Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce will have its 4th Annual Taste of Mullins on May 2 in Lions Club Park, behind the Police and Fire Departments, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door and are \$10 per person. Awards will be presented to the Best Taste and for the Best Decorations. There will be live entertainment and a silent auction, as well. The Big Dipper will be hosting a Hotdog Eating Contest, with cash prizes starting at \$200.

To sign up to participate or to purchase tickets, call the Mullins Chamber at 843-464-6651 or send an e-mail to [mullinschamber@bellsouth.net](mailto:mullinschamber@bellsouth.net)

## Got your garden growing?

The CommonHealth Community Gardens, a non-profit organization working to establish community gardens in rural South Carolina, has a plot ready for you! Spearheaded by Sarah Gerald, the Marion Community Garden is open to residents and agriculture enthusiasts.

There are 10 raised beds that will be rented at low costs to individuals and families who want and need healthier produce.

For more information, visit the garden on the west side of Withlacoochee Avenue near the intersection with Bobby Gerald Boulevard.



## Get to know your City Council



**BOBBY DAVIS**  
Mayor

Mayor Bobby Davis was elected in April 2013. His term ends in April 2017. He formerly represented District 4 for more than 20 years. He can be reached by calling his office telephone at 843-423-5961.



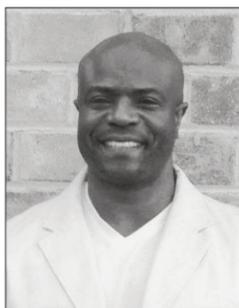
**RONALD ATKINSON**  
Mayor Pro Tem  
District 2

Councilmember Ronald Atkinson was re-elected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at 843-230-0072.



**RALPH ATKINSON**  
District 1

Councilmember Ralph Atkinson was re-elected in April 2011. His term ends in April 2015. He can be reached by telephone at 843-250-0446.



**EMERSON HUNT**  
District 3

Councilmember Emerson Hunt was elected in April 2013. His term ends in April 2017. He can be reached at 843-423-8889.



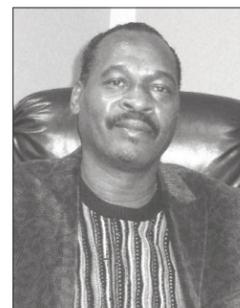
**BOBBY DAVIS**  
District 4

Former Council member Bobby Davis was elected as Mayor in April. A special election will be held to fill his unexpired term that ends in April 2015.



**ODESSA GREGG**  
District 5

Councilmember Odessa Gregg was re-elected in April 2013. Her term ends in 2017. She can be reached at 843-423-4847.



**MICHAEL BAKER**  
District 6

Councilmember Michael Baker was re-elected in April 2013. His term ends in 2017. He can be reached by telephone at 843-597-3617.

# New mayor thanks citizens



Marion Mayor Bobby Davis, shown at left giving his inaugural address after his swearing-in ceremony in front of City Hall on April 18, thanks everyone for supporting him in the recent election. Looking on in the photo are Councilmembers Odessa Gregg and Michael Baker. The long-time member of the City of Marion Council said he looks forward to continuing his work on behalf of the citizens of Marion. Mayor Davis said he is grateful to the people of Marion for their support, encouragement and help.

Mayor Davis will be keeping routine office hours in city hall and can be reached at 843-423-5961, Ext. 21.

# Coming in MAY ...

Keep up with what's going on around Marion!

**1st, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Rise & Shine!** Business networking opportunity at Olde Towne Marion. Call Chuck at 423-9918 for details. Come and bring a friend to learn more about the upcoming FoxTrot Festival activities.

**3rd, Friday, 5:30 a.m., Incredible Edible and Other Fun Stuff Auction and Annual Meeting;** Olde Towne Marion, 5:30 p.m. in the Emporium on Main Street. Call Chuck at 843-423-9918 for details.

**4th, Saturday, 7 a.m.,** Annual Olde Towne Marion Yard Sale in the Parking lot between Harllee and Arch Streets east of Main Street. Additionally, Friends of Paws to the Rescue will be having a Yard Sale at the same location, too. Come support these community ventures.

**4th, Saturday, 10 a.m.** Historic Downtown Marion Presents its Spring Tent Sale. Tents will be set up along Harllee Place ... Come shop with Downtown Marion Merchants.

Register for a goodie basket drawing, compliments of the Marion Merchants.

**7th, Tuesday, 6-8 p.m., 2nd Annual Art & Wine Stroll, Marion County Museum** Call Rosanne at 423-8299 for details.

**13th, 2nd Mondays, Le Leche League of the Pee Dee.** Mothers-to-be and new moms encouraged to attend and learn more ... in the Sunday School House of the Church of the Advent, 103 East Mullins Street, Marion, call 843-360-0101 for information.

**14th, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.**

**17-18th, Friday & Saturday,** FoxTrot Festival, downtown Marion ... Come join the fun!

**Open each Saturday: Olde Towne Marion's Farmers Market & Market Place on Main Street as well as the Community Farmer's Market open on Bobby Gerald Parkway.**



# Olde Towne to have annual meeting; Join the fun!

The public and membership of Olde Towne Marion, Historic Marion Revitalization Association, are invited to the group's annual meeting on Friday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m.

The "Incredible Edible & Fun Stuff Auction" will be conducted during the annual meeting in the Marion Emporium on

Main Street. The group solicited "delicious donations" from members and friends and will auction the cakes, pies, and other edible goodies as a fundraiser.

Proceeds from the auction are used to preserve and promote the Historic Downtown District of Marion.

# Second Farmer's Market opens in downtown Marion

The Community Farmer's Market will be opening in the old Thomas Howard Building at 109 Bobby Gerald Parkway on Saturday, May 4.

The market will be open each Saturday for the growing season from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

According to coordinator Debbie Erwin, those at the site are members of the state's Community-based Farmer's Market Association. "Throughout the year we will feature local farm-

ers who are SC Certified Grown, other SC Grown Products, and local artisans with handmade and handcrafted items in the Market. We have some farmers who will be accepting the SFMNP Senior Checks and WIC Vouchers," Erwin said.

She hopes that vendors will also soon begin accepting EBT/SNAP cards, as well. For more information, visit the Community Farmer's Market on Saturday!

# AT&T announces 4G expansion in to Marion

On April 29 in the Marion Chamber of Commerce office, AT&T announced its expanded 4G LTE network, from Florence into Marion County, bringing more customers the latest generation of wireless network technology.

"Broadband technology is a passport to the future for our citizens," said State Senator Kent M. Williams (D-Marion). "It opens doors of economic opportunity, both in terms of improved education and new jobs."

"So when more broadband is deployed to more people,

that's an excellent step in assuring South Carolinians will not be trapped on the wrong side of a digital divide." LTE technology in Marion County is capable of delivering mobile Internet speeds up to 10 times faster than 3G, a press release said.

"We appreciate the dedicated work of Senator Williams and his colleagues in the General Assembly in helping assure that all areas of South Carolina receive advanced broadband technology, not just the largest cities," said Dianne Herrington, President of the Marion Chamber of Commerce.

**Questions about your water or sewer bill?**

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at **(843) 765-4539** or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

**NEED HELP?**

Call City Hall, **843-423-5961**, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you...

**Mayor** Bobby Davis, 843-423-5961, Ext. 21

**City Administrator, Building Official** Alan Ammons, Ext. 19

**City Clerk** Pam Jones, Ext. 10

**City Treasurer** Patricia Brown, Ext. 18

**Municipal Court Clerk** Heather Evans, 843-423-8616

**Personnel, Purchasing Director** Elizabeth Fick, 843-423-8614

**Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant** Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11

**Recreation Admin Assistant** Cheryl Askins, 843-423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's **free** monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs. A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

**IT'S IN OUR HANDS!**

**SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S CONCERN.**

Together, we can make a difference ... The City of Marion has a **TEXT A TIP** line ... See a crime happening? Have a TIP? **Text it to 430-0938.**

T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 \* TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 \* TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938

T-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 \* TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938 \* TEXT-A-TIP: (843) 430-0938

# SPORTS & RECREATION .....

## Marion cheerleaders score BIG in recent competition

The Marion Recreation All Star Cheerleaders competed in the Battle at the Beach in March against 12 other teams.

The girls scored 48 of 55 possible points. "We are very proud of these girls, parents and coach Kelly Morehouse," Recreation Department officials said. "They all have put in a lot of work. All the girls are geared up and ready for other competitions!"

One of the competing teams is shown at right. For more photos, visit the Marion Recreation Department Facebook page.



ing, a warming kitchen, tables and chairs, bathrooms and can hold up to 250 people.

Also, the City has an outdoor picnic shelter at the Pop Dorsey Park on Green Street. Call 423-5410 for information about these rentable locations and their availabilities. Rentals are on a first-come, first-served basis.

## City hopes to open gyms during summer

The City of Marion Recreation Department hopes to open the city's gymnasiums this summer to have organized activities for boys and girls from 7 to 18 years old. For information, contact Cheryl Askins at the Watsonia Recreation Center, 423-5410.

## Book Club open to all

The Marion Recreation Department's Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month in the Watsonia Recreation Center from 6:30-8 p.m.

Anyone interested in more information about the group, call Ronda Todd at 843-340-7904.

## Aerobics meets nightly

A city-sponsored aerobics class meets in the Swamp Fox Higher Education Center Monday through Friday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Taught by Lillie Ann Sanders, cost for the class is \$30 each month. Anyone interested in this class should go by and check it out!

## Ping Pong Club ready to help you improve your game

The Marion Recreation Ping Pong Club meets every Monday and Wednesday in the Watsonia Recreation Center from 6 - 8 p.m. Come by and freshen up on your table tennis skills, watch a few matches or learn to play the game! Call Cheryl at 423-5410 for more information.

## City buildings available for your event

Whether a family reunion, birthday party, wedding, or other special event, the Recreation Department offers buildings for rent. Grice's and Watsonia Recreation Centers have air condition-

## Successful opening day kicks off 2013 baseball season

The Marion Recreation Department had opening day ceremonies in mid April for the start of T-ball, softball and baseball. The day started early with team photographs. Games and player introductions followed.

Russ Smith, Recreation Department Director, said "We had a park full of parents, family, and friends. It was a nice day to come out to enjoy all that was going on. Great food was provided by MRC concessions and Robin Turner had a food station set up."

Look onto Facebook for daily listings of game schedules, cancellations and more photographs!

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

Marion Recreation posts game schedules, cancellations, photos, more photos, such as the one below, and much more!

## Join the friendly fun at Senior Bingo!

The Marion Recreation offers "Senior Bingo" on the first and third Thursday of each month in the Watsonia Recreation Center. Bingo is free and newcomers are always welcomed!

There are prizes for the winners and refreshments to enjoy while playing. There is a two-card playing limit. Come join us and bring some friends!

## Senior flexibility classes offered twice a week

Marion Recreation offers Senior Flexibility classes every Monday and Thursday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center. The class is taught by Anna Boatwright and is free; however, donations are appreciated to help with the cost of music, bands, etc. Call Cheryl at 423-5410 or visit her in the Watsonia Recreation Center for information.

## Will we make it again?

KaBOOM!, the organization that recognizes Playful City USA communities is poised to announce its latest "Playful City USA" cities. This year nearly 500 cities and towns expressed interest in the status.

For the past two years Marion has been selected because of the city's commitment to the cause of play and to creating opportunities to increase the quantity, quality, and access to play.

KaBOOM! will announce the 2013 recipients of the award on Tuesday, May 7.

Stay tuned to learn if we have again achieved this recognition!



## Marion Chamber of Commerce announces April Yard of the Month

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Trussell, Jr., 1621 Fox Hollow Court, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for April 2013. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and who add so much to our community's unique character. Mr. and Mrs. Trussell will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.